

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When a request for compression or decompression of data for a next job is issued while processing of an current job is underway by one or more compression/decompression unit[s], the minimum processing time for the next-job data is compared with the processing wait period between pages of the current job. It is determined based on the results of this comparison whether or not compression or decompression of the next-job data is to be permitted. Based on this determination, control is carried out regarding whether or not compression or decompression of the next job by the compression/decompression unit[s] between pages of the current job is to be executed.